

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract.

[[The]] A distribution valve [[10]] comprises a valve piston [[12]], coupled with this a means of sealing [[15; 18]] and a control piston [[13]], where [[the]] a return port [[R]] can be closed off from the control piston [[13]], and where, after opening of the means of sealing [[15; 18]], the fluid connection can be made from the high pressure port [[P]] to the load port [[A]]. With control pressure present, the control piston [[13]] can be displaced from its initial position, via an intermediate position, into an end position, where as a function of the position the fluid connection between the load port [[A]] and the return port [[R]] can be unrestricted or closed off. The valve piston [[12]] comprises, displaced towards the end face [[26]] from a first radial aperture [[29]], a second radial aperture [[28;]]. [[the]] The first radial aperture [[29]] can be closed by the control piston [[13]] when the latter arrives at an intermediate position. Between the valve piston [[12]] and its guide, a restricting section can be formed. (Fig. 3)